DEMOCRATIC

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MOSCOW — BONN RELATIONS NORMALISED

The Soviet Union has agreed to establish normal diplomatic relations with the German Federal Republic (West Germany) as the result of negotiations in Moscow with a West German government delegation headed by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

The agreement was reached on September 13th after five days of negotiations. (Details of the negotiations are given on the next page.)

As a result of this new step towards the relaxation of international tension, the Soviet Union has become the first state officially to recognise both states which now exist in Germany—the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the German Federal Republic (West Germany).

At the start of the Moscow negotiations, Chancellor Adenauer attempted to impose two conditions before he would consent to the establishment of diplomatic relations: the question of the German war criminals imprisoned in the Soviet Union, and the question of German reunification.

The Soviet delegates emphasised that these, and other questions affecting Germany as a whole could only be effectively solved with the cooperation of the German Democratic Republic.

Chancellor Adenauer therefore was forced to drop his attempt to impose conditions before the establishment of normal diplomatic relations.

During the whole course of the negotiations Soviet Prime Minister Bulganin and other Soviet spokesmen made it clear that Soviet recognition of the German Federal Republic implied no alteration in the Soviet attitude towards the German Democratic Republic, with which the Soviet Union has had very friendly relations for a number of years.

Communique on Diplomatic Relations

The official communique issued in Moscow at the conclusion of the negotiations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic had the following text:

"From September 9th to 13th talks were conducted in Moscow between the government delegation of the Soviet Union and the government delegation of the German Federal Republic. (The communique then gave the names of those participating on both sides.)

"In the course of the negotiations, which were conducted in a spirit of mutual understanding, there was a far-reaching and open exchange of opinions on the question of the relations between the USSR and the German Federal Republic.

"During the negotiations the question of establishing diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic was discussed. An agreement was reached with found its expression in the letters exchanged by the two sides, dependent upon the agreement of the Federal Government and the Federal Parliament, and of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The agreement was for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states, for the opening of embassies in Moscow and Bonn, and for the exchange of diplomatic representatives in the rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

"Both delegations agreed that the establishment of diplomatic relations would contribute to the development of mutual understanding and the cooperation between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic in the interests of peace and security in Europe.

"Both sides assume that the establishment and development of normal relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic will contribute to the solution of the unsettled questions affecting the whole of Germany, and will thereby help to solve the main national problem of the entire German people, the restoration of the unity of a democratic German state.

"To underline the agreement reached, the Prime Minister of the USSR and the Chancellor of the German Federal Republic have exchanged letters. Both sides have agreed that in the very near future negotiations will be held between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic on the development of trade."

STOP PRESS

A Government Delegation from the German Democratic Republic, headed by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, flew to Moscow on September 16th for talks with the Soviet Government on the further development of the friendly relations between the two governments.

MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS

Day-by-day Summary of Talks

Here is a day-by-day summary of the negotiations in Moscow between the Soviet Government and the West German government delegation led by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer:

September 9th:

Soviet Prime Minister Bulganin opened the meeting by making the following proposals for the normalisation of relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic (West Germany):

1. Establishment of diplomatic relations, with Soviet ambassador in Bonn and West German ambassador in Moscow.
2. Extension of present limited trade relations, and conclusion of long-term trade agreement.
3. Cooperation and exchange of delegations in science, culture, sport etc.

Bulganin stressed that the Soviet Union already maintained good friendly relations with the German Democratic Republic, based on equality, mutal regard for sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs.

On the question of German unity, Bulganin drew attention to the obstacle formed by the Paris Agreements, under which the German Federal Republic had allied itself with "certain military groupings and followed a policy of remilitarisation". In addition, stated Bulganin, the Soviet Union always believed that the question of the reunification of Germany was above all a matter for the Germans themselves. It was necessary to recognise the reality of the existence of the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic, and reconcile the solution of this problem with international agreements on peace and security in Europe.

Adenauer, in his opening speech, claimed that this meeting was "the first official meeting between representatives of the Soviet Union and the German people for many years", ignoring the fact that the Soviet Union has maintained diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic for the past six years.

Adenauer stated it was unthinkable that normal relations should be established between the two states until the question had been settled of "those Germans still detained in the Soviet Union... This is a question which affects every single German family." Secondly Adenauer called for the reunification of Germany by the Four Powers, and for freedom for such a reunited Germany to join any military bloc which it liked. He rejected outright any question of negotiation between the two parts of Germany.

September 10th:

Bulganin recalled that it was the German militarists and fascists who had unleashed World War Two, which brought such destruction to the Soviet Union, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, France, Britain, Belgium and Holland. "Every Soviet family remembers this today with deep bitterness and natural protest" he stated. "The German people were in another situation, but finally the war brought them great sacrifices and hardship. It may now be assumed that the German people hate war just as the Soviet people hate war."

Bulganin then replied to the two points made by Adenauer on the previous day. He said:

"Firstly Chancellor Adenauer referred to the question of war prisoners. We think there is a misunderstanding here. There are no German war prisoners in the Soviet Union. All German war prisoners have been released and returned home. In the Soviet Union there are only war criminals from the former Hitlerite Army, criminals who were sentenced by Soviet courts for particularly heinous crimes against the Soviet people, against peace and against humanity. On September 1st there were 9626 such persons in our country. But these are persons who according to all the laws and rules of humanity are criminals whose proper place is behind bars. They are committers of violence and arson, murderers of women, children and old people. They were sentenced according to their crimes by Soviet courts and cannot be regarded as war prisoners...

"I should like to add that if the question of these criminals is considered here, then representatives of both the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic must take part in the discussions. This question affects both parts of Germany." Since the West German representatives did not wish to discuss the matter together with representatives of East Germany, Bulganin stated, it was obviously useless to pursue the matter.

Turning to the question of German reunification, Bulganin stressed that the Soviet Union continued its efforts that Germany be reunited as a peace-loving and democratic state. Since the ratification of the Paris Agreements, however, obstacles had been raised to reunification which could have been avoided.

"It is well known to you that during the negotiations on the Paris Agreements the Soviet Union repeatedly warned against these agreements, under which the German Federal Republic has joined such military groupings as the North Atlantic Pact and the West European Union and West Germany has begun to remilitarise itself. It is a secret for nobody that these military groupings are directed against the Soviet Union and several other peace-loving European states."

Despite this, Bulganin stated, the Soviet Union was trying to overcome these difficulties with the aim of establishing an all-European system of collective security, which would lead to a liquidation of the military groupings in Europe and thus make it possible to solve the problem of reunifying Germany. "The Soviet Union has always realised that the solution of the German problem ... was mainly a problem for the Germans themselves, that is to say under the present conditions a matter for mutual efforts by the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic... We believe that the Germans from both parts of Germany will find a common language and come together to begin to solve the German problem."

Replying, Adenauer said that nobody would deny that the Soviet Union had experienced a terrible war, but claimed that a great proportion of the German people had "opposed Hitler's totalitarian claims, and a majority of Germans had not been guilty of the acts of violence of the Hitler regime. Finally the

German people also suffered severely in the war, and after the Soviet Army marched into Germany terrible things had happened."

Adenauer alleged that when they were sentencing German war criminals after the war "Soviet courts had acted under the influence of the emotional currents of the past-war period".

Soviet delegate Khrustchov then intervened in the debate to answer Adenauer. He stated:

"The Federal Chancellor has stated that after they crossed the German frontier, Soviet troops also committed crimes. I categorically deny this. The Soviet troops, fulfilling a holy duty to their people, were waging a war which had been forced upon them by fascism. If foreign troops had attacked Germany, and Germany had defended herself, could that be described as a crime? I hold that insulting remarks have been made about the Soviet Army."

Khrustchov then referred to the fact that West German delegates had spoken of German families waiting for relatives the fate of whom they did not know. "I understand the feelings of these people, but one must have the courage to name those responsible for these sufferings. Many Germans died, but more Soviet citizens. We are not guilty: we did not cross the frontier: we did not begin the war . . . We cannot forget what happened in the past, but when we wish to solve these problems we cannot base ourselves upon the past."

Turning to the situation of the German Democratic Republic, Khrustchov stressed that the Government of the German Democratic Republic represented the opinion of the German people by protecting the interests of the workers, peasants and working intelligentsia. He, Khrustchov, understood Adenauer's attitude towards the German Democratic Republic but could not agree with it. He added: "I know that you (Adenauer) will not agree with me, but I say that the German Democratic Republic represents the future, and the future not of the German people alone . . . We supported the German working people as they began to build their German Democratic Republic on a Socialist basis. And this work is going well."

Adenauer, referring to the question of cooperation between the two parts of Germany, which had been so plainly put, stated that in West Germany it was considered that the Government of the German Democratic Republic could not be regarded in a democratic sense as representative of the population of East Germany. If this was changed, he said, then there would be a possibility of the two parts of German cooperating.

Bulganin replied that he could regard this argument only as an excuse to avoid round-table talks. He stated that when he visited the German Democratic Republic after the Geneva talks he had convinced himself that the Government of the German Democratic Republic had the support of the majority of the population. In addition it must be remembered that the German Democratic Republic enjoyed diplomatic relations with a number of states, including such powers as the Soviet Union and the Chinese People's Republic. This was an international fact, which could not be overlooked.

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At the end of this session it was agreed to regard as concluded the exchange of views on general questions. The Foreign Ministers of both states were charged with the working out of concrete proposals.

September 12th:

After a break in the negotiations on Sunday, September 11th, the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic met in the morning of September 12th in an attempt to work out compromise proposals on the basis of the declarations of principle made at previous sessions. In the afternoon the full delegations met in plenary session, details of which were not disclosed.

September 13th:

Meetings between members of the two delegations continued throughout the day, from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m., when the communique announcing the results of the conference was signed by Chancellor Adenauer and Prime Minister Bulganin.

The communique was accompanied by an exchange of letters between the delegations.

During the final session of the conference, Bulganin drew the attention of the West German delegation to the fact that more than one hundred thousand Soviet citizens, deported to Germany by the nazis, were still being held back in West Germany. He expressed the hope that the Government of the German Federal Republic would take the necessary measures for the repatriation of such Soviet citizens. Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov raised the question of the "pamphlet balloons" released in West Germany, which were a danger to civil airlines in the Soviet Union and other European states. "The Soviet Government expects that the German Federal Republic will take the necessary steps to put a stop to this" he said.

After the close of the conference Chancellor Adenauer addressed a letter to the Soviet Prime Minister, stating his government's point of view that the frontiers of Germany could only be determined by a peace treaty, and that the German Federal Republic was entitled to speak for the whole of Germany. The Soviet Government could not agree to the contents of this letter, it was announced in Moscow.

"WE CANNOT FORGET"
— Bulganin

"The Soviet people cannot forget the terrible crimes committed by these criminals from the Hitlerite Army, such as the shooting of 70,000 people in Kiev and Babi Yar.

"We cannot forget the millions of people who were shot, gassed and burned alive in the German concentration camps.

"Is it possible to forget the tons of human hair, cut from the heads of women tortured to death, hair which was stored in Maidanek?

"We who are present here, saw for ourselves everything which had happened in Maidanek. In the camps of Maidanek and Ausschwitz more than five and a half million innocent people were murdered.

"The Ukrainian people will never forget those innocent people murdered in Kharkov, where many thousands were shot and hanged.

„I could detail the concentration camps in Smolensk, Krasnodar, Stavropol, Lvov, Poltava, Novgorod, Orel, Kaunas, Riga and many other places, where hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens were tortured to death.

"We must not forget the innocent people who were murdered, gassed, and buried alive; we must not forget the burned towns and villages, the murdered women and children. And the 9626 persons whom I have mentioned are the criminals who committed these horrors."

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Bulganin on September 10th 1955, addressing the West German Government delegation, headed by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

"GO EAST YOUNG MAN"

340 Daily Move to East Germany

An average of about 340 men and women move every day from West to East Germany, according to statistics released in Berlin on September 7th by the Committee for German Unity.

A very high proportion of these are young men who do not wish to be conscripted into the new West German Wehrmacht, and jobs and homes are being found for all of them in the German Democratic Republic. Earlier this year the Government of the German Democratic Republic officially offered asylum to all young men who wished to avoid serving under old nazi generals in the new Wehrmacht.

During the first three months of 1955 a total of 15,000 young men of call-up age were among the many thousands who moved from West to East Germany, the Committee for German Unity announced. Altogether 100,000 men, women and children moved from West to East in 1954, and the rate is 22 percent higher this year, the announcement said.

Many of those moving from West to East are "second-time movers", or persons who, lured by western propaganda, left their original homes and jobs in East Germany in order to move to what they thought was the "golden west". Thoroughly disillusioned by what they found there, they have now moved back to the German Democratic Republic, where they are sure of finding jobs and a decent life if they are willing to work.

32 COUNTRIES AT LEIPZIG AUTUMN FAIR

Thirty-two foreign countries exhibited at the Leipzig Autumn Fair, which closed on September 10th. The importance of Leipzig as a fair centre was shown by the fact that 25 of the exhibiting countries were from the western world.

The autumn fair in Leipzig is traditionally the sample fair, confined to relatively small goods, and without the gigantic machines which always mark the technical fair in the spring.

A feature of the fair was the great number of exhibitors from West Germany and West Berlin—1275—more than at any previous post-war fair.

The biggest exhibitors were Czechoslovakia, with 2,000 square metres of stands, Holland and Rumania with about 900 square metres, and the People's Republic of Vietnam with 600 square metres. Vietnam was exhibiting at Leipzig for the first time.

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Trade talks with a British industrial group in July 1955 have resulted in an agreement on the sale to Britain of artificial fertilisers, cement, chemicals and finished products and to East Germany of wool, cocoa, coffee and iron and steel products. The total sum involved is nearly five and a half million pounds sterling.

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The existing trade agreement between East Germany and Holland has been extended. East Germany will send potash, machinery, textiles, glass and porcelain and Holland will supply fish, vegetables, fruit, dairy produce, meat, superphosphates and raw textiles.

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A trade agreement has been signed between East Germany and the Sudan providing for exports from East Germany of agricultural machinery, pumps, electrification equipment and railway carriages. The Sudan will send cotton, oil seeds, skins and gum arabic.

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An agreement on technical and scientific cooperation between China and the German Democratic Republic was signed in August 1955. The agreement provides for exchange of information on metallurgy, heavy engineering, electro-technology, the textile and paper industries, and on food and agriculture. German specialists are also to go to China to study the use of various materials and finished products in sub-tropical conditions.

Thomas Mann Dies

Thomas Mann, world-famous eighty-year-old German writer, whose books, including "The Buddenbrooks", "The Magic Mountain", "Joseph and his Brethren" and others, have been translated into many languages, died in Zurich, Switzerland, on August 12th 1955.

Thomas Mann spoke in Weimar, East Germany, and in Marbach, West Germany, at the 150th Schiller memorial celebrations this summer. He was an outspoken supporter of German national and cultural unity. The Government of the German Democratic Republic was officially represented at the funeral ceremony, and memorial meetings were held in many towns and cities of East Germany.

Prices Up in West Germany

The following figures issued by the West German Public Opinion Research, EMNID, in Bielefeld, show the rise in average monthly household expenditure in West Germany between July 1954 and June 1955:

	July 1954	Dec. 1954	June 1955
	(West German Marks)		
One-person household	213	220	228
Two persons	308	317	320
Three persons	366	375	389
Four persons	406	422	445
Five or more persons	474	491	506

The West German Trade Union Federation places the average monthly income of 80 per cent of West German workers and office employees at less than 300 West marks. 45 per cent of all tax payers in West Germany have incomes of less than 150 West marks a month.

In East Germany, prices have remained stable, and in a number of cases have been reduced during the same period.

Film Notes

French actress Simone Signoret arrived in East Berlin in August to star in the film of Bert Brecht's play, "Mother Courage".

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Seventeen West German films were amongst the hundred new films exhibited in East Germany between July 1954 and July 1955.

"STEP BY STEP TO GERMAN UNITY"

Prime Minister Grotewohl Reviews Situation

The unity of Germany can now only be achieved step by step by a gradual approach between the two states which now exist in the country, East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl told the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic in Berlin on August 12th.

Prime Minister Grotewohl, who was speaking on the results of the Big Four Conference in Geneva, emphasised that the ratification of the Paris Agreements granting West Germany a new Wehrmacht had pushed the question of all-German elections into the background. "Attempts to place the question of all-German elections in the foreground can, under present conditions, only be regarded as an evasion of the issues" he stated.

Prime Minister Grotewohl proposed a four-point plan by which the two states in Germany, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), and the German Federal Republic (West Germany) could come closer together. Here are the points of this plan:

1. Systematic work to lessen tension between the two German states.
2. Extension of trade relations between the two states, and mutual assistance in developing foreign markets.
3. Extension of cultural relations, exchange of sports teams, cultural delegations, etc.
4. Improvement of communications between the two states.

In view of the importance of Prime Minister Grotewohl's statement, we present the main passages in full in the following columns:

The wishes of the German people have long been directed towards a further lessening of international tension.

Bitter experience has made our people realise acutely that mankind must be spared from future wars. The German people also feel strongly that solutions for such important problems as the creation of a system of collective security in Europe, disarmament, outlawing atomic weapons and attaining peace must be found at last.

It is more and more clearly understood in Germany that every contribution to a lessening of international tension is also a contribution to the peaceful solution of the German question. For this reason the German people are deeply appreciative of the determined and consistent peace policy of the Soviet Union.

The West German imperialists and the Adenauer government, on the other hand, have unfortunately not taken seriously the Soviet statement that the ratification of the Paris Agreements creates a dangerous situation in Europe and increases the difficulties attendant upon the peaceful solution of the German problem.

Both the Western Powers and the Adenauer government have thrust aside the Soviet warnings of the consequences of remilitarisation in West Germany and the inclusion of West Germany in an aggressive military bloc.

With the hasty ratification and carrying out of the Paris Agreements and with the introduction of military laws in Bonn before the Geneva Conference, they intended to present a fait accompli and thus to undermine the Conference. They have not succeeded in this, for in the face of this situation the peaceloving and democratic states of Europe gave expression to their unity in the Warsaw Agreements. It was thus clear that the question of European security was coming ever more to the fore amongst the peoples of Europe, including the German people.

It is clear that a lessening of tension, security and peace cannot flourish in Europe when one part of Germany — West Germany — is remilitarised and rearmed. A dangerous breeding ground for war exists where there is unbridled control by monopoly capital, where the old fascist generals and economic chiefs again hold the power in their hands, where militarist-fascists preach of "marching on the east", "liberation of western civilisation" and a "new order in Europe" — as Herr Brentano, Bonn Foreign Minister, allowed himself to do in Augsburg recently — and where the "policy of strength" is openly discussed.

Because of these difficulties in solving our national problem, it was not to be expected that the question of German reunification could be solved in advance of the problem of security. The Geneva Conference has brought a definite clarification of the position of the Four Powers on the question of German reunification.

At Geneva the Western Powers suggested a continuance of the Paris Agreements. They even proposed bring the whole of Germany within the scope of these agreements and including it in the North Atlantic Pact and the Western European Union.

It is clear that this would have most dangerous results for Europe and for Germany. A militarised Germany would lead to new war adventures and would be the beginning of serious sufferings for all the peoples of Europe — and not only for Europe.

This has nothing in common with assuring peace and security for the European peoples; this is the old "cold war" position which drives the peoples towards "hot war" and holds up the peaceful solution of the German question.

This would lead the German people to a new and horrible catastrophe. We must therefore be perfectly clear that an attempt to yoke a reunited Germany to the Paris Agreements and to include it in the Atlantic Pact system is once and for all absolutely unacceptable to the German people and we must refuse to accept it.

The Soviet representative in Geneva pointed out clearly that Germany ten years after the end of the war is not the Germany of 1945. During the past ten years two states with different political and economic orders have developed. In West Germany the political and economic

power of monopoly capital has been set up again and remilitarisation has again opened up the road to wars of aggression. In East Germany, on the other hand, a workers' and peasants' state has been set up and the road to socialism and reconstruction taken — a road which can only be trodden in peace.

The two German states are recognised by many other countries with which they entertain diplomatic, trade and cultural relations. In view of the actual existence of these two German states it is perfectly clear that the reunification of Germany cannot be achieved through a formal reunification of both parts, but must be carried out step by step through cooperation and through a nearer approach of both states.

This is the practicable way proposed by the government of the Soviet Union at Geneva. This is the way which can lead to the reunification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state which would constitute no threat to other peoples and which would not transform Germany into a battle-field in an atomic and hydrogen bomb war, but would guarantee the German people and the peoples of Europe a happy and peaceful future.

The Soviet Union has shown clearly that under present circumstances, with West Germany drawn into the Western European Union and the North Atlantic Pact and remilitarised, the problem of the reunification of Germany can only be solved through a slackening of tension in Europe, and establishment of mutual confidence between the states as the necessary precondition for setting up a system of collective security and an approach between the two German states.

In consonance with its previous policy of consistent representation of the German people's national interests and of strengthening the peace of Europe, the government of the German Democratic Republic declares itself in agreement with the point of view of the Soviet Government as expressed by N. A. Bulganin, and declares its readiness to take part in a system of European security.

The only real way to German reunification lies in the common efforts of the Four Powers and the German people. The Geneva Conference has fully confirmed our point of view that the solution of the German question is impossible without the Germans themselves. It constitutes a challenge to the German people to come out at last, united and in a worthy and patriotic way, in support of their own cause.

If the Four Powers could come together for negotiations at Geneva and bring about a lessening of tension, then every sensible and patriotic German in East and West should also be able to join in negotiations and come to an understanding on the vital problems of the German nation.

Lessening of tension, understanding and approach — that is the motto of Geneva, and it must also be the motto for Germany.

First preference for peaceful methods of solving questions at issue, a principle which has again triumphed at Geneva, was and is a constant principle for the government of the German Democratic Republic too. We are determined to support this principle in future. We are therefore preparing to take part in the October Conference, to represent the interests of the German people. We raise it to a national demand of the German people that their representatives be heard at the Conference of Foreign Ministers in October.

We do not, however, intend to deal in illusions, but in accordance with a sober recognition of the actual conditions as they have been pointed out at Geneva. If we do this we reach the following conclusion:

The unification of Germany is only possible through an approach between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, and through a full consideration of the interests and internal and international position of the German Democratic Republic.

There can be no reunification of Germany at the expense of the working people of the German Democratic Republic and their interests.

The working people of the German Democratic Republic will never sacrifice the achievements which they have won in ten years' hard work.

The interests of the German Democratic Republic as well as those of the German Federal Republic can only be taken into consideration if the Germans themselves take part in the solution of the German question. It is the task of the peace-loving forces amongst the German people to prepare the actual preconditions for reunification on the basis of the social and political conditions which have developed in each part of the country.

Here the German Democratic Republic takes the point of view that the control of the monopolists and big landowners in West Germany must be broken, as was laid down in the Potsdam Agreement and in accordance with the interests of the German people and of peace. What direction should the creation of preconditions for German reunification take?

The reunification of Germany cannot be achieved unless Germans from East and West get together and discuss common measures which would tend to overcome the present division of Germany step by step.

Such measures should, above all, be carried out in the following directions:

1. A systematic lessening of existing tension between the two parts, in order to bring the so-called cold war within Germany to an end and to create a suitable atmosphere in the relations between the two states.

2. Extension of economic and trade relations between the two German states. This would help to lower the economic barriers which have arisen from the division of the country and lead to a better use of production capacity, better employment for the people, an increase in the circulation of goods, and a general rise in the standard of living of the German people. An important measure to bring the two states closer together could also be mutual assistance in developing foreign markets and encouraging German export in both eastern and western countries.

3. Further development of cultural relations between the two German states, as an important contribution to a nearer approach between them. The Government of the German Democratic Republic sees no obstacle in the way of an extensive exchange of cultural, scientific and sport delegations, or of an exchange of information on art, science and sport.

4. Improvement of communications between the peoples of the two German states and the creation of the necessary conditions for such communications.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is of the opinion that the introduction of such measures would be a contribution to a nearer approach between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic. It ist of primary importance to the government of the German Democratic Republic that the present political atmosphere in Germany be improved, for this is a pre-condition for the solution of the various single problems.

In its desire to create a united, peace-loving and democratic Germany, the government of the Ger-

man Democratic Republic is prepared at any time to enter into negotiations on this question with the relevant authorities in West Germany, or to discuss other proposals.

Under existing conditions, a nearer approach and cooperation between the two German states is the only possible way of preparing the internal political conditions necessary for reunification.

Attempts to place the question of all-German elections in the foreground can, under present conditions, only be regarded as an evasion of the issues. The whole German nation knows that the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly put forward proposals and suggestions for the carrying out of all-German elections. We were perfectly prepared to bring about the reunification of Germany by means of all-German elections. But all our proposals were rejected by the Bonn government.

Adenauer has even denied the West German population the right to a plebiscite on the Paris Agreements. After the ratification of the Paris War Agreements and the adoption of the Bonn War Laws a new situation has arisen which does not permit of all-German elections being dealt with in the previous way. We have uttered clear and timely warning about this. The German people cannot forget the lesson of history, that Hitler also made use of elections for the preparation of his war of aggression. For this reason, the security of the German people and of the peoples of Europe against a new war of aggression by German imperialism must occupy first place since the ratification of the Paris Agreements.

Only after assurance against a new German imperialist aggression and against the use of elections for aggressive purposes has been achieved, will it be possible to carry out really free, democratic elections in the whole of Germany.

Read All About It

West German readers can now order over one hundred and twenty East German journals and magazines through their local post offices. These include literary and art magazines, journals of medicine, philosophy, architecture and scientific research, a number of specialised technical journals, zoological, poultry, forestry and botanical magazines and a dog lover's paper.

East Germans have for some years been able to subscribe to about 180 West German journals and technical publications of a similar kind.

OPERATION "BLACK PUMP"

Europe's Biggest Soft-Coal Combine

Thousands of East German construction workers have begun work on "Operation Black Pump", the plan to increase many-fold the production and processing of soft coal in the German Democratic Republic.

Scene of the operation is the area of Hoyerswerda, a small market town about one hundred miles south-east of Berlin. Geological investigations in this area have shown the existence of 30 000 million tons of soft coal, which can be dug by the open-cast process with a minimum of manual labour.

Operation Black Pump has been named after the "Gasthaus zur Schwarzen Pumpe", or "Black Pump Inn", a lonely country inn standing near the site of the newly projected industrial giant.

The plans for the great industrial combine include the following projects:

1. Four huge open-cast mines, producing over one hundred thousand tons of coal daily.

2. A great central processing plant, which will have a daily production of tens of thousands of tons of coke, millions of cubic metres of gas, hundred of thousands of kilowatts of electricity, and great quantities of synthetic petrol, tar, and raw materials for plastic production.

3. A great new Socialist city, with over 25 000 inhabitants, across the river from the little town of Hoyerswerda.

The foundation stone for the great processing combine, which will be the largest of its type in Europe, was laid on August 31st 1955 by Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Heavy Industry of the German Democratic Republic, and himself a miner by profession. He announced that the government has earmarked a total of over one thousand million marks to finance the great project.

The combine will not be completed until 1963, according to present plans, but by 1959 the first subsidiary plants, an electric power station and a soft-coal briquette plant will be in operation.

The new Socialist city which will house the workers in the new project is being constructed simultaneously with the combine. It has been intentionally sited in Hoyerswerda, about 15 miles away from the combine, so that the workers and their children will not live in an atmosphere tainted by the fumes and smell of the great chemical plant. A special railway, with trains running at five-minute intervals during the rush period, will connect the new city with the combine.

The new city will of course be fully equipped with all necessary schools, shops, cinemas, hospitals and so on. The experiences won during the past five years in the building of Stalinstadt, another completely new city on the river Oder, will be utilised to make the new city of Hoyerswerda an even finer place to live in.

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Soft coal, which has a higher water content than the hard coal mainly mined and used in Britain, is of great importance to the economy of the German Democratic Republic, since the deposits of hard coal there are relatively small. This soft coal must be processed before it can be used, generally in the form of pressed coal briquettes. In the past few years, the scientists of the German Democratic Republic have developed for the first time a method of coking this soft coal, so that it can be used for smelting.

Even before production had begun in "Operation Black Pump", East Germany was the world's larges producer of soft coal, with a yearly output which will reach 200 million tons this year.

CREEPING INTO POWER

Social Democrats Warn of West German Renazification

Many West German Social Democrats are becoming increasingly alarmed by the re-nazification in West Germany. We reproduce on this page, with some cuts for reasons of space, an article on the subject from the August 1955 issue of "Geist und Tat", theoretical organ of the West German Social Democratic Party.

Is everything really as it should be with us? It seems as if we had forgotton a whole chapter of our history and learnt very little from it. There are many symptoms of this.

In mid-June a meeting of so-called Victims of Denazification and Occupation Internees was held in Gadeland near Neumuenster in North Germany. The mere fact that Federal Minister Kraft and Provincial Ministers Asbach and Sieh appeared at the meeting because they had themselves been interned in Gadeland, is significant.

But the men of yesterday are reappearing everywhere, trying to correct historical truth. They do this by a simple about-face process. They demand compensation from the constitutional state for the consequences of their own misdeeds, committed in an unconstitutional state.

"Federal Association of Victims of Compensation", "Community of Victims of Denazification", "Association for the Protection of Dismissed Public Servants", "Social Assistance for Former Civilian Internees". And so on and so forth.

It must be emphasised that the aim of these groupings is not merely social recognition. The aim is twofold—justification for the past and the claim to leadership in the new state in addition.

But let us take another look at what is happening today. A book by the former Lord Mayor of Berlin has been published by the Druffel Verlag. This man was formerly also editor-in-chief of Goebbels' paper, "Der Angriff". This man writes in 1955 about the victims of the Nazi regime:

"In 1945 they claimed pensions as 'victims of Nazism'. These claims were met in the most generous way. It was alleged that they had been systematically tortured. There was not a word of truth in this."

In 1933 the same man had said, in the Berlin Sportpalast: "For me the Jew is not a human being. But with what animal could we presume to compare him?" And in "Der Angriff" of the same year he wrote:

"Against the Jews any action whatever is justified."

This man has found a publisher today, here in the Federal Republic.

Further to the question of Nazi literature. The Federal Parliamentary Committee for the Protection of the Constitution demanded last year that the Federal Minister of the Interior take action against a certain Herr Lenz, on the basis of Article 18 of the Constitution. Herr Friedrich Lenz had, in a pamphlet, shifted the blame for the outbreak of the war on to the men of July 20th 1944 (date of the bomb-plot against Hitler, ed. DGR) amongst others. His comment on the wiping out of the Jews was simple:

"Chips fall when wood is planed."

Compared with these so-called "chips"—and only with the millions of Jews whose murder can be proved—the court action against Herr Lenz can at the most be regarded as a tiny splinter. But an author need not even fear such an action.

This is of course not to be wondered at, since the state itself has long been in a compromised situation. We draw attention to a few items of news which have appeared during the last few months.

Laurel wreath, torchlight procession and gun salutes for SS General Mayer, former commandant of the Hitler Youth SS Division.

The Free German Party fraction in the Kiel city parliament recommends again conferring honorary citizenship of Kiel on the former Admiral Raeder, and the Federal Government supports a claim to release Admiral Doenitz.

Nearly one hundred old soldiers' meetings took place during May and June of 1955 alone. It is no longer possible to count the various associations and traditional associations. They meet and tell the harmless citizen that he should bear himself as a man with a war front tradition. In 1953 one State Secretary of the Federal Government appeared at the official memorial service for the victims of July 20th 1944 in Berlin, but our state had representation five times as strong at the old soldiers' meeting held in Hannover on the same day.

But are all our representatives beyond question?

"Within the political decay of the liberal - democratic - parliamentary state, a new form of political unity is growing up, through the revolutionary break-through to power of a responsible, powerful leadership stratum. The political expression of this cultural formation is the Leader State."

This is a quotation from the thesis for a doctorate of a man named Hans Joachim von Merkatz. He is now a minister of the Federal Republic.

And all these people are talking, writing and meeting in the Federal Republic. All these elements have wormed their way to the surface again. No torchlight processions and no huge meetings heralded their return. Warnings repeated almost daily fall on deaf ears, for the men of yesterday tread lightly into power again.

Two Nazis in Lower Saxon Government

Two new State Secretaries, both prominent former nazis, have been appointed in the West German province of Lower Saxony, it was announced in Hannover.

The two men are Herr Hunke, formerly ministerial director in Dr Goebbels' nazi Propaganda Ministry, and Herr Deetjen, who was responsible for the "blood and soil" propaganda of the nazi Food Ministry.

PHONE CALL ABOUT A NAZI

Goebbels Assistant Paid By Bonn

Throughout the nazi period a certain Dr Eberhard Taubert worked in a responsible position in Dr Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry as expert for anti-semitic and anti-communist propaganda. Here is a small sample from one of his articles, published in the nazi press in 1939:

"Where there is communism, there are the Jews, and if there were no Jews, then there would be no communism. Everywhere in the world the Jew is 'the most effective ferment of national decomposition'. Thus the world danger of communism is basically a danger from world Jewry... The Fuehrer has dared to throw down his gauntlet to the Jews, the enemy of the world, and will carry on the fight, without compromise, until the victorious conclusion."

In addition to his propaganda work Dr Taubert acted as a lay judge in one of the "People's Courts" which passed death sentences on Hitler's opponents.

Today Dr Taubert is Deputy Chairman of the "Volksbund für Frieden und Freiheit" (People's League for Peace and Liberty), an anti-communist propaganda organisation founded and run by the Ministry for All-German Affairs of the West German Government. Headquarters of the league are situated a few hundred yards away from the West German Parliament, at No. 2 Schaumburg-Lippe Strasse, Bonn.

Information about the anti-semitic activities of Dr Taubert came to the ears of Herr Karl Marx (no relative of the founder of scientific Socialism), editor of the influential middle-class Jewish weekly in West Germany "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland".

On July 1st, 1955, Herr Marx, very concerned about this new evidence of fascist infiltration, telephoned the Ministry of All-German Affairs, and asked to speak to Minister Jakob Kaiser. He was connected with Ministerial Counsellor Freiherr von Dellingshausen. The telephone conversation, which was recorded and was printed verbatim in the West German news magazine "Spiegel" on August 17th, throws such a revealing light on the state of mind of high officials of the West German Government that we reproduce it, without comment, below:

Marx: I asked for Minister Kaiser and was connected with you. I have a very serious matter.

Dellingshausen: What is it?

Marx: Dr Eberhard Taubert is the driving force of the People's League for Peace and Liberty. I know that this league receives considerable subsidies from the Ministry for All-German Questions. Are you aware that during the nazi period Taubert wrote anti-semitic articles, articles which are among the worst which I have seen?

Dellingshausen: At that time one had to write many things, one could not avoid it.

Marx: Are you aware Taubert participated in a number of the sessions of Herr Freisler's People's Court?

Dellingshausen: That is all old stuff. The question was investigated at the relevant time by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, and they were satisfied with Taubert's explanation that he only took part sometimes as a lay judge, and that only in cases in which light sentences were passed. This question has been disposed of.

Marx: Are you also aware that Taubert had a leading position in the Reich Propaganda Ministry?

Dellingshausen: Yes, we know about that too.

Marx: As far as I know, Taubert also participated in cases in which death sentences were imposed. But apart from that, it seems to me that participation in the sessions of the People's Court is considerably incriminating.

Dellingshausen: I already told you that this matter must be regarded as disposed of, since one was satisfied by his explanations.

Marx: Herr Ministerial Counseller, the reason for my phone call was to ask the Minister, whose political attitude I know well and who takes these things just as seriously as I do, whether he will take the necessary steps with regard to Taubert when I submit as further incriminating evidence the photostats which I possess of his anti-semitic articles. I should like to formulate the question in this way: Do you believe that your Ministry will draw the necessary conclusions with regard to Eberhard Taubert, who at a very minimum contributed towards the ideological preparations for mass murder? If you know my newspaper, then you know that I have placed it at the service of the Federal Republic, and do everything to protect abroad the reputation of the Federal Republic and its ministries. That is the reason for my telephone call. I am not looking for sensations, and am happy when such things can be dealt with without informing public opinion.

Dellingshausen: I can tell you that the Ministry will draw no such conclusions with regard to Taubert, since Taubert is a man whom we need, and he is also indispensable.

Marx: But such a nazi cannot be supportable for the Federal Republic.

Dellingshausen: There are far bigger nazis in the Federal Ministries, and I could name them to you. Taubert has experience, and we cannot, as I already told you, do without him. But anyway, send in the information you have, and I shall investigate it and make a decision.

Marx: At the moment I cannot agree to that. I have noted your declaration, and I shall now decide what steps I shall take. As a result of your replies I am afraid I shall have to decide to deal with this matter in my paper.

Dellingshausen: In that case I can only warn you. You will cause an uproar, and in the end you will not achieve anything. You will be classified in that group of journalists like Herr Zehrer (editor of the West German newspaper "Welt" who recently visited the Soviet Union, ed.) who have recently given their aid to Communism and undermined our anti-Bolshevist struggle. I had my own experiences in the East Zone, and know that all these people lie, and that you can believe nothing they say, not even their present promises.

Marx: That is a collective verdict —that means driving on to a hot war.

Dellingshausen: These people do not understand any other language, but I can only assure you once again that you will cause an uproar, and that your readers will believe of you what I have just said.

Marx: I believe that it is sufficiently known amongst the public, the way in which I have worked against Communism, and that I am one of those on whose heads they first attacked after the war.

Dellingshausen: Despite this, publication on your part will be so understood.

Marx: Thank you very much.

LOVE AND THE FAMILY IN EAST GERMANY

By Paula Wiking

"Can a man get a divorce if he claims his wife hinders his political development?"

This is certainly not a question anyone in the west would dream of asking—but in the German Democratic Republic I heard it asked and answered too.

The occasion was one of the hundreds of meetings taking place all over the country to discuss the draft of the new family bill which, with amendments and changes based on suggestions from the public as well as legal experts, has since become law (passed in November of last year).

According to the law, divorce is permissible only "if serious reasons for it exist," and if the appropriate court "has ascertained by a searching investigation that the marriage has lost its meaning for the married couple, for the children and for society." One can well imagine the innumerable ways in which such an elastic principle could be abused in a corrupt society. Its many possible interpretations in a socialist country emerged from the kind of questions asked, and the answers given by those responsible for the drafting of the law.

Here at this packed East Berlin meeting, Dr. Hilde Benjamin, the Minister of Justice, stated her opinion that such a claim might be valid "if the wife is a reactionary woman whose ear and heart belong to the warmongers." But the matter did not end there.

"Or the husband might be using this argument as an easy way out," she went on. "But a divorce would not rest on his word alone. The wife would also have her say, and the court must investigate the facts. We should certainly not allow such a plea to be the excuse for getting rid of a middle-aged wife for the sake of a younger woman."

This reply was warmly applauded. There is no gainsaying that the demands of political life bear hard on private lives, at any rate so long as the present cold-war situation remains, and often create great personal problems and difficulties.

We saw plenty of evidence of this during our month in the German Democratic Republic. There was the young headmaster—he was only 28—whose duties not only include administering his great new school of over a thousand pupils, teaching some of the classes, and continuing his own studies in order to qualify for a specialised branch of teaching, but also a certain amount of political activity.

"And when," I asked him, "do you have time to fall in love and marry?"

His rather cold, pale-blue eyes warmed into a sudden, unexpectedly gentle smile as he answered,

"Yes, that is one of our great problems. I am very lucky to have an understanding wife who also does her share of political work. But we don't get much time together."

According to the new law, the father of an illegitimate child can only communicate with it if the mother gives her consent. But someone in the audience asked, since he must contribute to the child's support, why should he not have the right to see it?

"Well, after all," was the reply, "he is usually the one who did the deserting, not the mother and child."

There were some sneers and titters at this, mostly from the men, of course, but Dr. Benjaman rounded on them sharply.

"It's nothing to laugh at," she said. "Human relationships are much too complicated for that. It's difficult enough for divorced couples, with the father usually seeing the children on Sundays—and then, if the mother is working, that's the day she wants to be with them too. And what about the upset to the children themselves if they are continually shuttled back and forth and thrown into strange surroundings? These things must be solved in human ways. Even Communism doesn't always answer these questions."

This was not a disavowal of Dr. Benjamin's political beliefs, but a rebuke to those who still seek to solve human problems by rule of thumb. Her ideas about Communism seemed implicit in another reply she gave to a question rather similar to the one I had asked the young headmaster. Must a young father do political work night after night and neglect his family?

"I thought when I married him that I should develop together with him," said the young woman asking the question, to murmurs of assent from the audience. Dr. Benjamin accepted the question as a vital one affecting the lives of a large number of people.

"It is quite right," she said, "that every comrade should cultivate his family life and find time for his wife and children. It is often very difficult, I know. Of course, the wives too should take their share of political work—we shall develop our society all the more quickly if the women play their part."

"The ministry takes this discussion very seriously," said Dr. Benjamin, "and all criticisms and proposals, which have come from West Germans as well as our own citizens, are being fully considered. The draft law is an important document of democracy."

There are three basic principles underlying the law. The first is the people's ownership, in which women's equality can become a fact. The second is the development of legal changes to express the legal equality of women, giving them political responsibilities as well as their rights as women and individuals. The minister stressed the fact that full equality has not yet been reached, but that the basis for it has been laid.

The third principle is that of the rights of the family, which are more closely connected with the whole system of morality than anything else.

Except for the principle of "people's ownership", there is little in these principles with which any non-Communist, liberal-thinking person cannot agree. Some may even find them rather commonplace. There is certainly nothing very startling, for instance, in Dr. Benjamin's explanation that one of the duties of parents is to allow their daughters an education equal to that of their sons.

"It is no longer permissible," she said, "to say that a girl doesn't need all that education—it will only be wasted because she will marry anyway."

Yet how often do we still hear that very remark in the West!

Explicitly written into this law is the woman's new position in the family, which "brings her right to professional training and the exercise of a profession into harmony with her duties as wife and mother."

Also explicit among the duties of parents to children is that of bringing them up as "independent and responsible-feeling citizens of the democratic state, who love their country and work for peace."

The minister devoted a good deal of time to the problems of divorce and the unmarried mother, which evidently still rank high in the German Democratic Republic, as they do in every western country.

Much new and clear thinking in moral questions had to be done, she said. There was still a good deal of the moral chaos left by the war and Hitlerism to be overcome. Men, in particular, had to learn to recognise the rights of women, and the rights of unmarried mothers and children of unmarried mothers.

The new law, in fact, wiped out the legal distinction between childen born in or out of wedlock. The old law by which the illegitimate child had the social status of its mother, not that of its father, was intended to protect the family of the young master from the servant he had seduced, and the Herr Baron from the peasant girl. The new rights of today derived from the status of women as workers enjoying the respect of society.

As far as divorce was concerned, the question was not how to make it quick and easy, but how to strengthen and stabilise the family.

"It will no longer be possible for two people to go and tell lies to the judge, or for 'witnesses' to an act of adultery making a show of refusing to testify, so that the court may assume that adultery has in fact been committed. We are not interested in searching for guilt in marriage, but in trying to find out what is wrong with it now."

It seemed that even the Socialist principles of the German Democratic Republic had provided some divorced husbands with a wonderful argument against paying alimony. Everybody, they said, now has the right to work! But Dr. Benjamin turned the argument neatly inside out by intimating that the wife was also always a housewife and a mother—"which incidentally proves how far we are from forcing married women to go out to work!"

The West German press tried at first to keep the whole question of the new law quiet, but the keen interest of the public made this impossible. The pamphlet giving the terms of the new law has been widely circulated in the West, and Dr. Benjamin's ministry has received large numbers of queries and comments from there.

(Reprinted from the "National Herald", Lucknow, India.)

BERLIN'S BOMBED-OUT OPERA RE-OPENS

"Lovely" Says London "Times"

Berlin's historic Opera House, almost totally destroyed in an allied air-raid during the war, was reopened on September 4th with a gala performance of Richard Wagner's "Meistersingers".

Building work, entirely financed by the Government of the German Democratic Republic, has been in progress for three years. The exterior of the building, and the main plan of the interior, are true to the original built in 1743 by the great German architect Knobelsdorff, but the interior decoration and particularly the stage technology have been modernised.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Times", London, who attended the gala premiere, after recalling some of the mishaps and arguments during the rebuilding of the opera house, had this to report to his newspaper:

". . . Destroyed and rebuilt five times since it opened in 1743, the Opera House was of the best of old Berlin and its restoration is a happy thing. The architect of this restoration, Professor Paulick, has precisely copied none of the previous buildings on the site, but his design is closer to the original than were some of the other four.

"When one enters the building it is at once evident that there has been no counting of money. The technical equipment is elaborate, the interior lovely with its fine lines, its white and gilt, and its restrained rococo detail.

"Much good craftsmanship is to be seen. Only a detail here and there introduces the symbols of eastern European Socialism among the lutes and acanthus leaves of the eighteenth century. The inner proportions have been improved by the return from four to three upper tiers; as a result there are only 1,500 instead of 1,850 seats. Many of these seats, half at least, will be kept for block bookings by organizations in accordance with the practice in east Germany.

"Herr Konwitschny, from the Leipzig Gewandhaus, has stepped into the breach left by Herr Kleiber and conducted the performance tonight. It was in no way unconventional, but in many ways a distinguished performance. Hans Sachs was played by Herr Josef Herrmann, and Walter von Stolzing by Herr Erich Witte. In the programme for the new season are Iphigenie in Aulis, Don Giovanni, Fidelio and Die Entfuehrung.

"Gluck, Mozart, Beethoven and Wagner have been adopted together as masters who (in Herr Burghardt's words) 'took the path of progress' with their art. It is not the most handsome of conceivable testimonials, but at least it is a formula broad enough and generous enough to permit the State Opera to give a fine season in its fine new house.

"Tonight's performance was splendidly mise en scène and was played and sung with feeling and gaiety."

Historians Meet

East German historians attended the 10th International Historian's Congress in Rome from September 4th to 11th. This is the first time in the history of the congress, which meets every five years, that historians from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies have participated.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

During my holidays, which have just ended, my wife and I visited Czechoslovakia, and I should like to take a little space on this page to mention one or two things which struck me there.

It was a highly successful holiday, most of it spent at a beautiful mountain resort in the Tatra Mountains, but I do not intend to give readers details of the lovely scenery, the tasty cakes, the friendly cheerful Slovaks and Czechs whom we met, and all the rest of the concomitants of such a holiday.

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But on the way back from the mountains we stayed in the beautiful city of Prague for a few days. And only a few miles from Prague lies an open field, and in the middle of this field stands a simple wooden post with a very simple inscription in four languages: "Here once stood Lidice."

On the opposite hillside lies the beautiful rose-garden, planted with roses from all over the world in memory of the village which the nazis attempted to wipe from the face of the earth.

They did not succeed, of course. A few hundred yards away from the site of the village, which was destroyed with horrible thoroughness, stands a new and far more beautiful, rebuilt village.

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The name of this little village became known throughout the world in 1942, when the German Wehrmacht wiped it out and murdered most of its population. And the site of the village is today a warning to all of us not to allow the same people who destoyed Lidice to build a new Wehrmacht in West Germany.

It is significant that the school history books in West Germany do not mention Lidice. The history books used in the schools of East Germany give a full account of this nazi crime.

After we had returned from our visit to Lidice, we went to the Jewish Museum in Prague, where there is an exhibition of children's drawings. At first sight there is nothing very remarkable about these drawings and paintings—the usual brightly-colored pictures made by children aged between the ages of about 5 and 12.

But there is indeed something very remarkable about them, for they are pictures made by some of the thousands of Jewish children who were confined in the nazi concentration camp at Theresienstadt in northern Bohemia. For a certain period conditions in Theresienstadt, which the nazis ran as a "model ghetto" were not quite so terrible as in other concentration camps, and it was possible for some sort of schooling to be given to the children. Many of the pictures, poems and essays which these boys and girls made there have survived the war. The boys and girls who painted and wrote were almost without exception sent to the gas-chambers of Auschwitz.

And now these pictures are on show as a dreadful reminder. There are relatively few "horror" pictures: what most of the children tried to show were the lights and colours and the ordinary daily life which they remembered from outside the camp. In almost every imaginary street scene, for instance, the young artists show flower sellers, with huge bunches of brightly-coloured flowers, and food shops with their windows packed high with food. Not ice-cream: simply bread.

And accompanying the pictures are the verses and the essays. Here is a short extract from an essay by Peter Fischl, born in 1929, gassed in Auschwitz 1944:

"We have got used to sleeping without beds: we have got used to bowing to everyone in uniform: to walking on the street and not the pavement. We have got used to wounds and nakedness: to seeing people die in their own excrement: to lying beside dead bodies. We have got used to seeing sick people lying in dirt, and to helpless doctors. We have got used to it that every hour thousands of helpless people are sent here, and thousands are sent away . . ."

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Then there is a heart-rending verse by Eva Pickova, aged 12. No-one knows her fate:

"Today, while my heart still beats,
I see my school-mates being taken away to death.
Sometimes I think it would be better to die now
Rather than to see that."

There is a very short verse by Pavel Friedmann, age unknown, who was gassed in 1944:

"I have not seen any butterflies here.
Butterflies don't live in ghettos."

And here, finally is one paragraph from a fairy story by Karel Fleischmann, age and fate unknown:

"Once upon a time there was a king, who was very mighty and powerful. When he felt hungry he went up to the serving-hatch of the kitchen and said: 'Two portions, please'."

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Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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Prague News Letter

Readers of GERMAN REPORT who are interested in events in Czechoslovakia can get the latest information in "Prague Newsletter", published in Prague every two weeks. When I dropped in to see the editors, they told me they would be glad to send specimen copies to any readers who write them a line at the following address:

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Stalinova 3
Prague 12
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